

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 MC-02 ACDA-07 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 /067 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:PHWACKERBARTH:MKF

APPROVED BY ARA:HEWSON A. RYAN

L/ARA:MKOZAK

ARA/CEN:LCKILDAY

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O 172320Z MAY 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 121259

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ES

SUBJECT: ARREST OF SALVADORAN COS MANUEL ALFONSO RODRIGUEZ

1. SALVADORAN AMBASSADOR, BERTRAND GALINDO, CALLED ON ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY RYAN TODAY REGARDING ARREST OF COL. RODRIGUEZ. BERTRAND STATED THAT GOES SINCERELY REGRETS THE INVOLVEMENT OF RODRIGUEZ IN ALLEGED TRANSAC-TION LEADING TO ARREST. HE ASSERTED THAT GOES CONSIDERS THIS THE ACT OF AN INDIVIDUAL ACTING ON HIS OWN AND THAT THE GOES WANTS NO PART OF ANY KIND OF ILLEGAL ARMS PUR-CHASES. BERTRAND ADDED THAT GOES DOES NOT DESIRE TO INTERFEREIN ANY WAY IN THE PROSECUTION OF RODRIGUEZ OR ANY OTHER PERSONS INVOLVED UNDER U.S. LAW.

2. BERTRAND REQUESTED THAT WE PROVIDE HIM ASAP A COMPLETE  
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REPORT ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES LEADING UP TO THE ARREST OF

RODRIGUEZ. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THIS WAS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO GOES TO HAVE THIS IN ORDER TO JUSTIFY ITS DECISION TO SEPARATE ITSELF FROM ACTIONS OF RODRIGUEZ. WE INFORMED HIM THAT WE ARE ENDEAVORING TO GET THIS INFORMATION FROM THE U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE IN NEW YORK AND WE WILL PASS IT ALONG AS SOON AS WE CAN. WE WILL ALSO ADVISE EMBASSY SAN SALVADOR OF TEXT OF REPORT ASAP.

3. DEPTOFF PROVIDED BERTRAND WITH COPY OF MUNITIONS CONTROL LICENSE APPLICATION WORKSHEET AND ATTACHMENTS INCLUDING LETTER ON WHAT APPEARS TO BE ESTADO MAYOR STATIONERY SIGNED BY RODRIGUEZ TO SAN PAN TRADING CORPORATION, THE U.S. SELLER. TEXT OF LETTER READS AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE: SENORES: POR LA PRESENTE CERTIFICAMOS QUE LAS DIEZ MIL AMETRALLADORAS "BUSH MASTER" QUE HEMOS ORDENADO DE USTEDES SON PARA EL USO DE LAS FUERZAS ARMADAS DE NUESTRO PAIS Y NO SERAN RE-EXPORTADAS NI CEDIDA EN PARTE OR TOTALMENTE A UN TERCERO. ESTE CERTIFICADO TAMBIEN CUBRE UN MILLION QUINIENTOS MIL CARTUCHOS CALIBRE 5.56 MM. DIOS, UNION, LIBERTAD. MANUEL ALFONSO RODRIGUEZ, CORONEL DE ARTILLERIA D.E.M., JEFE DEL E.M.G.F.A. UNQUOTE.

4. BERTRAND ALSO ASKED OUR GOOD OFFICES IN PASSING ALONG TO THE GOVERNMENT OF HONDURAS A GOES STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT THE GOES WISHES TO MAKE CLEAR THAT ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT OF RODRIGUEZ IN ARMS TRANSACTION DOES NOT REPRESENT BAD FAITH ON PART OF GOES IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH HONDURAS. BERTRAND WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT THIS POINT BECAUSE OF RODRIGUEZ' STATUS AS A MEMBER OF GOES NEGOTIATING TEAM AT RECENT TALKS IN NEW ORLEANS.

5. FOR TEGUCIGALPA: PLEASE PASS SUBSTANCE PARA 4 TO GOH AS APPROPRIATE. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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**To:** SAN SALVADOR TEGUCIGALPA  
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